

UNCLASSIFIED 4/23/77
Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977STATE092286

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Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15
NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:FERONDON:ZC
APPROVED BY ARA:MR. LUERS
ARA/P:MYOHN (DRAFT)
D/HA:PDERIAN (INFO)

-----232100Z 098346 /66

P 232039Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

[REDACTED] STATE 092286

E.O. 11652: N/A

Exemption(s):
~~Classify~~ () In Part ☒ In Full **DECLASSIFIED**
() Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to ☐
Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason ☐

TAGS:SHUM, PINS, AR

SUBJECT:DETENTION OF JOURNALISTS COX AND TIMERMAN

DECONTROL

REFERENCE: FREEMAN-RONDON TELECON OF 4/22

1. NEWS OF ARREST OF COX OF BUENOS AIRES HERALD PROMPTED DEPARTMENT TO TRY TO REACH AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN. THE AMBASSADOR WAS IN NEW YORK, HOWEVER, AND WE FINALLY REACHED FIRST SECRETARY RUBIO ON FRIDAY NIGHT (APRIL 22). SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, RONDON OF ARA/ECA TOLD RUBIO THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS CONCERNED THAT TWO RESPECTED ARGENTINE NEWSPAPER DIRECTORS ARE NOW UNDER ARREST. DEPTOFF CONTINUED THAT ARRESTS COULD HAVE VERY ADVERSE EFFECT ON U.S. PUBLIC OPINION. RUBIO WAS ADVISED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY WOULD HAVE LIKED TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS EARLY NEXT WEEK WITH AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL BUT COULD NOT BECAUSE ASSISTANT SECRETARY WOULD
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BE OUT OF TOWN. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS WOULD

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THEREFORE ASK ON MONDAY TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS. RUBIO PROMISED TO INFORM AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL IN NEW YORK.

2. THE PRESS HAS BEEN INFORMED ON AN IF ASKED BASIS THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND ARE SEEKING TO ASCERTAIN THE FULL FACTS OF THE SITUATION.

3. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, MIAMI HERALD AND WASHINGTON POST ARE ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN COX ARREST AND ARE EXPECTED TO SEND PROTEST TO ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED INFORM GOA OF OUR INTEREST IN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE VERY DELETERIOUS EFFECT WHICH JOURNALISTS' ARRESTS COULD HAVE ON U.S. PUBLIC OPINION. WE ASSUME EMBASSY WILL STAY IN TOUCH WITH BRITISH EMBASSY REGARDING COX, WHO IS THEIR NATIONAL, AND ELICIT BRITISH COMMENTS.
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